

Application Form for Joint Research Project 2010

Applicant(Coordinator) : Hidemitsu Kuroki

1. Project title	
Human Mobility and Multi-ethnic Coexistence in Middle Eastern Urban Societies	
2. Project term	April, 2010 ~ March, 2013 (three years)
3. Coordinator	(Name) Hidemitsu Kuroki (Role) Coordinator, Cities in Lebanon and Syria
Sub-coordinator	(Name) Masato Iizuka (Role) Deputy-Coordinator, Islamic Movements in Middle Eastern Urban Societies
ILCAA member	(Name) Nobuaki Kondo (Role) Cities in Iran
ILCAA member	(Name) Yoichi Takamatsu (Role) Cities in Turkey
4. Number of project members	10 (5 from Japan, 5 from abroad)
5. Research Field of joint researchers	Multi-disciplinary studies (history, geography, anthropology, political science and urbanism) on the Middle East
6. Summary of the project	
<p>By analyzing human mobility and the spatial expansion of major Middle Eastern cities (Beirut, Aleppo, Istanbul and Tehran), this project will elucidate the process of development of multi-ethnic relations and their influence on political and social movements in the modern period. The results of studying the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Middle East will be of value to the civilizational strategy of Muslim and non-Muslim coexistence in global society, and also to multi-ethnic studies in general. Using the Japan Center for Middle Eastern Studies (JaCMES) in Beirut as the study base, this project will bring together researchers from multi-disciplinary fields (history, geography, anthropology, political science, urbanism, etc) from Japan and abroad.</p>	
7. Aim of the project	
<p>When analyzing the role of urban notables in the modern history of Lebanon and other Arab countries in 1966, Albert Hourani indicated the importance of the dichotomy of ideologies between the mountains and coastal cities, which were characterized by strong communal solidarity and by open pluralism, respectively. Human mobility from mountainous areas to Beirut caused the capital city's physical expansion and made it an arena of these two clashing ideologies. Hourani's view (in which Ibn Khaldun's influence may be observed), is even more effective and significant in the early 21st century.</p> <p>This project aims at clarifying the process of urbanization and the dynamic ethnic coexistence in major Middle Eastern cities (Beirut, Aleppo, Istanbul and Tehran). It also aims at analyzing the characteristics of political and social movements which have developed in those pluralistic urban societies, exploring to find a common and long-range political culture among them.</p>	

8. Significance of the research, especially the significance of carrying out the project as a joint research

Studies on Middle Eastern cities in Japan have contributed to depicting the nature of Islamic government and popular counter-movements in pre-modern periods. Studies on political and social movements in the modern Middle East have mostly dealt with the analysis of ideologies and have not paid enough attention to situate movements in the development of urban social space. Basing itself on the ILCAA's former two projects, i.e. Middle East and Islamic Studies and Studies of Political Culture of Asia and Africa, this project will use JaCMES as a study base and will cooperate with concerned researchers and institutes. Beirut has merits in that it is the capital of a multi-ethnic (multi-confessional) state, is the arena of extremely active (sometimes violent) political negotiations and is in a central location in the Middle East.

9. Research results expected

Through research on respective cities and workshops at JaCMES in Beirut, a volume of anthology will be published.

10. Project plan

Fiscal Year

2010: Research on nineteenth-century cities: urban function of receiving outsiders, ethnic distribution of residential areas, political movements in urban space, etc.

June: The 1st meeting at JaCMES: introduction

February: The 2nd meeting at JaCMES: workshop on the subject above

2011: Research on the sporadic extension of urban space in the nation-state-building period caused by refugees, forced migration and population exchange

October: The 3rd meeting at JaCMES: workshop on the subject above

2012: Research on political and social movements

October: The 4th meeting at JaCMES on the subject above

February: The 5th meeting at ILCAA to conclude the project

11. Plans to make research results public

Publication of an anthology volume after the three year research is complete.

Data and sources gained by the research will be open to the public via a webpage.

12. Documents needed from those applying for joint researchers

1. CV

2. A summary of research plan in Japanese (about 500 letters) or English (about 300 words)